

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 16, 1996/Asadha 25,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you about this matter. A question... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me after the question hour

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: I want your protection. Just now what I have seen, while coming to Parliament, the police stopped me for 15 minutes on the plea that hon'ble Prime Minister is coming. What is the benefit of the privilege we have got? This privilege should be stopped. If we have given privileges then why we are being stopped like animal? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got your letter. I will go through that. Now question No.81

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: This practice is adopted with every Prime Minister, so you must see it. Who will see it? ... (Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Afforestation

*81. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

• (a) the targets fixed for afforestation in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the targets achieved out of them, State and Union Territory-wise.

(b) the reasons for not achieving the targets, if any

(c) the steps taken to achieve the targets in the remaining Plan period:

(d) whether the afforestation efforts suffered a reversal in the Plan period, so far and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme for each of the States/Union Territories. The annual targets and achievements for the period 1992-93 to 1995-96 are given in Annexure-I. The targets for 1996-97 are given in Annexure-II.

The average level of achievement in the Eighth Plan Period so far has been approximately 85%. The inadequate availability of funds has been a major constraint, inspite of efforts to increase the total allocation for afforestation tree plantation.

ANNEXURE-I

1. Statewise/Yearwise Targets and Achievements for Afforestation/Tree Planting Activities under 20 Point Programme during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

Area in Hectares Seedlings in Lakhs

S. No.	Name of State/UT	1992-93				1993-94			
		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement	
		Seedlings Distribution	Area (Public Lands including on pvt lands)	Seedlings Distribution	Area (Public Lands including on pvt lands)	Seedlings Distribution	Area (Public Lands including on pvt lands)	Seedlings Distribution	Area (Public Lands including on pvt lands)
		(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)	(For planting on pvt lands)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1850.00	63450.00	1102.63	47453.00	1950.00	70000.00	917.19	34530.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	7200.00	5.00	7200.00	5.00	7500.00	5.00	7500.00
3	Assam	25.00	25000.00	11.80	22486.00	30.00	27500.00	20.76	18144.00
4	Bihar	600.00	48000.00	180.00	20357.00	750.00	50000.00	190.03	45855.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Goa	25.00	1500.00	27.23	1722.00	30.00	1800.00	33.46	1854.00
6.	Gujarat	2500.00	70000.00	2281.46	64847.00	1500.00	68000.00	1631.76	73711.66
7.	Haryana	300.00	37050.00	300.00	34826.00	300.00	37500.00	231.81	33823.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	90.00	32500.00	88.59	31280.00	75.00	35000.00	33.19	32395.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	50.00	20000.00	64.83	17010.85	60.00	20000.00	42.01	15928.20
10.	Karnataka	555.00	38500.00	374.38	36479.97	450.00	42500.00	274.19	46429.36
11.	Kerala	160.00	25000.00	173.79	17342.70	300.00	15000.00	136.61	3127.69
12.	Madhya Pradesh	600.00	11000.00	600.12	121394.19	400.00	125000.00	439.00	125187.19
13.	Maharashtra	1150.00	16300.00	824.97	153621.38	1200.00	180000.00	1141.25	100062.17
14.	Manipur	25.00	9000.00	22.46	8600.00	30.00	9500.00	22.00	6928.00
15.	Meghalaya	125.00	18000.00	26.58	5148.00	125.00	19000.00	54.88	11604.00
16.	Mizoram	10.00	12000.00	5.86	14000.00	10.00	14000.00	16.31	16750.00
17.	Nagaland	110.00	5850.00	20.10	4700.00	120.00	7500.00	54.30	2799.00
18.	Orissa	500.00	60000.00	425.42	74134.85	550.00	75000.00	390.04	70819.00
19.	Punjab	70.00	17000.00	85.90	19360.00	80.00	18000.00	51.78	17800.00
20.	Rajasthan	350.00	65000.00	405.13	66729.00	400.00	65000.00	453.34	67238.00
21.	Sikkim	15.00	8000.00	9.50	8665.38	18.00	8500.00	10.85	8484.82
22.	Tamil Nadu	875.00	65000.00	1037.36	113553.10	1000.00	114000.00	1124.32	86016.51
23.	Tripura	50.00	16000.00	37.05	15253.00	50.00	17700.00	28.14	8603.54
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3390.00	90000.00	3468.29	100139.26	3200.00	85000.00	2929.00	83723.24
25.	West Bengal	1000.00	50000.00	802.00	50000.00	800.00	45000.00	800.00	35200.00
26.	A & N Islands	5.00	3200.00	5.33	3200.00	5.00	3300.00	5.00	3488.67
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	400.00	0.28	430.20	0.00	500.00	0.05	8.00
28.	D & N Haveli	10.00	1000.00	7.90	518.00	12.00	1100.00	12.02	894.60
29.	Daman & Diu	1.00	100.00	1.14	83.34	1.00	150.00	0.94	62.00
		1.00	150.00	1.03	47.00	1.10	165.00	1.94	76.00
30.	Delhi	50.00	2000.00	41.60	1512.70	50.00	2000.00	43.51	1740.40
31.	Lakshadweep	3.00	50.00	3.36	50.00	4.00	50.00	4.27	54.20
32.	Pondicherry	1.00	200.00	10.81	128.00	4.00	200.00	0.60	126.53
Total		14500.00	1064000.00	12450.87	1062225.52	13509.00	1165300.00	11097.61	963888.17

ANNEXURE-I Contd.

Statewise/Yearwise Targets and Achievements for Afforestation/Tree Planting Activities under 20 Point Programme during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

Area in Hectares Seedlings in Lakhs

S No.	Name of State/UT	1992-95				1993-96			
		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement	
		Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public Lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public Lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public Lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public Lands including forest lands)
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Andhra Pradesh	1000.00	35000.00	418.69	44642.00	1100.00	45000.00	1063.00	65929.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	8232.00	7.33	8341.00	7.00	9078.00	7.00	9078.00
3	Assam	25.00	25000.00	21.46	18941.00	27.50	27500.00		
4	Bihar	750.00	50000.00	32.39	5214.00	825.00	55000.00	13.86	2530.00

1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
5	Goa	35.00	1900.00	20.86	1652.00	38.50	2090.00	25.72	1327.00
6	Gujarat	1500.00	54000.00	1566.72	69983.00	1650.00	59400.00	1707.65	67101.73
7	Haryana	250.00	27000.00	55.15	31430.00	250.00	29700.00	51.94	33438.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	20.00	35000.00	48.49	36500.00	22.00	26200.00	35.74	29976.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	70.00	22000.00	33.14	7802.00	60.00	22000.00	57.71	19972.00
10	Karnataka	450.00	48000.00	559.74	58452.00	495.00	52800.00	310.88	65712.00
11	Kerala	300.00	16000.00	51.27	14360.00	330.00	17600.00	27.81	14820.18
12	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	135000.00	438.12	135000.00	495.00	148500.00	294.60	55362.36
13	Maharashtra	1000.00	121000.00	1339.30	136523.36	1100.00	133100.00	1017.96	121288.52
14	Manipur	30.00	10000.00	24.45	7415.00	33.00	11000.00	11.85	8941.00
15	Meghalaya	75.00	20000.00	17.10	7575.00	82.50	22000.00	4.00	2700.00
16	Mizoram	20.00	18000.00	23.25	14130.00	22.00	19800.00	9.92	6313.00
17	Nagaland	75.00	7500.00	53.80	1710.00	82.50	8250.00	74.70	4350.00
18	Orissa	300.00	72000.00	448.23	64687.00	330.00	79200.00	183.68	33626.52
19	Punjab	45.00	17000.00	34.81	13593.00	49.50	18700.00	48.81	9650.00
20	Rajasthan	300.00	79000.00	353.82	88437.00	330.00	86900.00	388.32	95280.00
21	Sikkim	20.00	9200.00	26.79	NR	22.00	10120.00	22.00	9586.00
22	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	75000.00	1007.30	92561.30	1100.00	82500.00	567.42	22515.00
23	Tripura	21.50	7728.00	25.98	7171.00	23.65	8500.00	21.72	12078.59
24	Uttar Pradesh	3500.00	9200.00	3015.00	72025.00	2000.00	101200.00	2160.86	82550.24
25	West Bengal	758.00	38000.00	1118.35	41285.00	833.80	41800.00	500.00	32000.00
26	A & N Islands	6.00	3700.00	5.00	3506.59	5.00	3300.00	5.30	4133.60
27	Chandigarh	0.00	450.00	NR	450.00	0.00	495.00	-	-
28	D & N Haveli	114.50	1000.00	14.39	788.50	15.95	1100.00	13.38	916.90
29	Daman & Diu	1.00	150.00	1.03	47.00	1.10	165.00	1.94	76.00
30	Delhi	55.00	2200.00	42.21	1688.00	15.00	500.00	20.95	838.00
31	Lakshadweep	4.10	60.00	4.30	61.00	4.51	66.00	4.54	66.00
32	Pondicherry	4.00	200.00	2.18	131.30	4.40	220.00	4.63	94.20
Total		12085.10	1031320.00	10810.65	984102.05	11354.91	1123784.00	8657.89	812249.84

* = Tentative

ANNEXURE-II

Targets for Afforestation/Tree Planting Activities under 20 Point Programme during 1996-97

Area in Hectares
Seedlings in Lakhs

Final Targets for 1996-97			
S.No	Name of State/UT	Seedling Distribution (For Plantation on private lands)	Area (Public Lands including Forest Lands)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	50000.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	9500.00
3.	Assam	25.00	27500.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	500.00	40000.00
5.	Goa	30.00	1800.00
6.	Gujarat	1908.00	65597.00
7.	Haryana	200.00	32000.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00	28000.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	60.00	24000.00
10.	Karnataka	400.00	65000.00
11.	Kerala	180.00	19000.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	150000.00
13.	Maharashtra	1150.00	126000.00
14.	Manipur	25.00	12000.00
15.	Meghalaya	40.00	18000.00
16.	Mizoram	22.00	19800.00
17.	Nagaland	60.00	8000.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Orissa	300.00	79000.00
19.	Punjab	52.00	20000.00
20.	Rajasthan	380.00	76550.00
21.	Sikkim	22.00	11000.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1100.00	85000.00
23.	Tripura	23.00	10000.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2200.00	110000.00
25.	West Bengal	825.00	440000.00
26.	A & N Islands	5.00	3300.00
27.	Chandigarh	0.10	500.00
28.	D & N Haveli	16.00	1000.00
29.	Daman & Diu	2.00	100.00
30.	Delhi	25.00	1000.00
31.	Lakshadweep	5.00	72.00
32.	Pondicherry	5.00	78.00
Total		11136.10	1137797.00

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked about the targets fixed for afforestation on national level in the Eighth Five Year Plan and the total expenditure incurred thereon. But he has not stated clearly the total provision made in the budget for this purpose. The reply given about the position of forests in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan is incomplete. He has also not clearly stated the expenditure incurred on afforestation during the Eighth Five Year Plan. So far as achieving the target is concerned, there should be 33 percent of land under forest cover as per the target fixed in the National Forest Policy. But it is only 17 percent. If even after spending millions of rupees the targets are not achieved then who is responsible for this? And what action has the Government taken so far in this regard? What is the reason for not bringing the land under forest cover as per the targets fixed? As per the figures available with me almost the entire amount that was allocated each year has been spent. Despite this, today only 17 percent of land is under forest cover. And even this is being destroyed at a very fast pace. What the Government has to say for not achieving the target commensurate with the expenditure incurred?

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : MR. Speaker, Sir, so far as the target and achievement is concerned, I have said in my reply that the Eighth Five Year Plan target is 51449.01 lakh seedlings. Out of this we have achieved the target of 42817.025 lakh seedlings. Similarly, regarding the area, it has been said that the total area which was to be brought under forest cover is 4384404 hectares. In this case, our achievement is 3822465.58 hectares. In this way we

have achieved 85 percent of our target. Due to lack of funds, this remaining 15 percent target could not be achieved.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The question has not been properly answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : The country's total area under forest cover is 33 percent. This total area as per the survey comes to 77.001 million hectares.

Actual forest land is 64.01 million hectare. Out of it, 25 million hectare land is under open forest cover which has a density of 20 to 40 percent. As per the Forest Survey conducted in 1943, at the end of 1991 there had been a net increase of 22 million hectare in forest area. So far as the expenditure incurred during the Eighth Five Year Plan is concerned, during 1992-93 (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is alright Vermaji, please ask second Supplementary.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : My question has not been replied to. Sir, forest is an important issue. Rs 2500 crores have been spent during Seventh Five Year Plan period but the target fixed for afforestation has not been achieved. All these officers of the Department of Forest and forest guards are engaged in deforestation. Today, the condition of the forests in the country is very pitiable and it is quite possible that the forest would be visible in zoos only and nowhere else on the earth.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question Vermaji.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, deforestation is going on a very large scale. 8.87 million hectare land was to be put under forest cover during the Seventh Five Year Plan but that target has not been achieved. 12 main wild life Zones and wild life sanctuaries were to be developed but the hon. Minister does not present any report in this regard. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 675 crores was to be spent for this purpose but we cannot see forest anywhere, though the amount is being pumped out on large scale. In fact, afforestation is not taking place anywhere.

Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any Commission would be constituted to enquire into the matter or the task would be handed over to C.B.I.? The fact is that every time the area forest cover is deforested and then the Department Forests plans for afforestation but nobody goes to see whether the afforestation has actually taken place or not? The entire fund is being spent on the paper only and the forest is nowhere to be seen.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question now. It cannot be like this.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to constitute a Committee comprising of the concerned MPs and MLAs representing the forest area with a view to know the yearwise expenditure incurred on afforestation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the area put under forest cover and whether the plants have actually been planted on land or these are on the papers only? Whether the hon'ble Minister would like to give the factual position in this regard?

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a matter of deforestation, it is related to afforestation. Where there are forests and where afforestation is done by State Government. (Interruptions) State Governments monitor it. Besides, our Ministry also keeps an eye on the position in two ways. First, we get reports from State Governments about the number of seedlings planted in Blocks and the villages. These reports are placed in the Lok Sabha Library. Secondly, we get the same investigated by an independent agency. I am also telling about that investigation. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Would you please tell the name of the agency through which it is being investigated?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is Question Hour. You cannot do like this.

[Translation]

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : I am telling the investigation was done in 1991-92 on national level by Anne Hill University, Shillong and you want to know about Bihar. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a scam of Rs. 200 crore has been committed in Bihar. The Government should give details about that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the Minister to answer.

[Translation]

He is answering. Please listen to him. You are not listening to him.

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : The investigation has been done in case of Mehsana which is in Ahmedabad. (Interruptions) It was done by Koraput Treeland Development Service, Bangalore.

(Interruptions) Shri C.M. Sethi is a retired Officer. (Interruptions) Please listen to me. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : A scandal involving Rs. 200 crores has been committed in Bihar. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted him. This is Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the Minister to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can give a short answer.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : You are asking about the investigation conducted in Bihar. (Interruptions) The investigation has been conducted through I.I.P.O. (Interruptions) The investigation has been done through independent agency. (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is exporting sandalwood to other parts of the world. At present, there is a ban on seedling of sandalwood plantation on private patta land. Will the hon. Minister announce if there is any scheme with the Central Government or is there any proposal to instruct the State Government to remove the ban? Then only can we increase the afforestation of sandalwood.

SHRI ANIL BASU : This does not come under afforestation.

That is included in horticulture. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Government has nothing to do with the decision to be taken about the selection of plants. It depends upon the State Governments. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. As many hon. Members are interested to know about this subject, we will have Half-an-Hour discussion.

Shortage of Rail Wagons

*82 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : With the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the extent of shortage of rail wagons in the country at present.